

Did you know...



Children who go to kindergarten knowing the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet have a much easier time learning to read. Knowing the names and shapes of letters is called “letter” or “alphabetic” knowledge.

By the time your child begins kindergarten he or she should know most of the letters of the alphabet, especially those in his or her name.



There are many ways to learn and practice letter recognition, and they should be more play-based than drills. When children can make a connection with the letter because of what it represents, they are able to keep and use that information in a meaningful way.

Here's how...

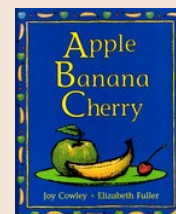


- ★ Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often, and have your child write his or her name in their own way. You can support them with a name model or spelling it out loud.
- ★ Point out and name letters when reading books, signs or labels. There are many signs out in the community that have letters that children recognize and relate to.
- ★ Sing the alphabet song together and play with rhymes. Sing the song in different ways so the letter sounds are more clear— soft, loud, deep, high, slow, fast, or to different tunes.

Read

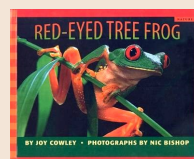


Apple, Banana, Cherry, by Joy Cowley



Apple! Banana! Cherry!
Come with me! Let's have fun
with our ABCs. Joy Cowley's
wonderful read-aloud rhymes
make learning the alphabet lots of fun for
young readers.

Joy Cowley began to write for children as a way to help her son with his reading. Since then, she has written over 400 books for early readers. She is well-known for her *Mrs. Wishy-Washy* series, as well as the award winning *The Red-Eyed Tree Frog*.



Choosing Books



More books that teach letter knowledge...

'A' Was Once an Apple Pie, by Edward Lear

I Stink! by Kate and Jim McMullan

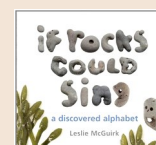
Old Black Fly, by Jim Aylesworth

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, by Bill Martin, Jr.

If Rocks Could Sing: A Discovered Alphabet,
by Leslie McGuirk

LMNO Peas, by Keith Baker

Alphabet Under Construction,
by Denise Fleming



Talk



The more you talk and have conversations with your child the more exposure they'll have to letter sounds. Mealtime, bathtime, and bedtime are especially good times to check in and talk about things—what they did that day, things that interest them, their favorite books, etc.

Write



The PBS Kids website has a variety of online games that teach letter knowledge. The games involve popular PBS characters, and range from Puppy Letters with Clifford to making words with Cookie Monster's alphabet soup. Check it out at <http://pbskids.org/games/>

Play



The Alphabet Beat

First clap your hands. Then stomp your feet.

Everybody do the alphabet beat.

Apple, Apple, Apple— a-a-a

Apple, Apple, Apple— a-a-a

Wave your arms high. Swing your arms low.

The alphabet beat is the way to go.

Blue, Blue, Blue—b-b-b Blue, Blue, Blue—b-b-b

Move to the left. Move to the right.

The alphabet beat is way out of sight.

Car, Car, Car—c-c-c Car,

Car, Car—c-c-c

Now give a high five to a nearby friend.

The alphabet beat has come to the end!



www.lagrangelibrary.org

Sing



A word about the ABC song...

A B C D E F G, H I J K E l e m e n o P e a
Q R S, T U V, W, X, Y and Z

Parents often think their child "knows" the alphabet because they can sing the ABC song and/or recite the alphabet, or because the child can point to the letters in order while singing or saying the alphabet.

Being able to do those things can show that a child has some knowledge about the alphabet, but children with good letter knowledge can identify letters in any order.

At your library...



Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, now offers free "storytimes online" every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer or Smartphone.

DayByDayID.org
STORYTIMES ONLINE